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Agenda item 69

Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Third Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Nicola **Hill** (New Zealand)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled:

> "Promotion and protection of human rights:
>
> "(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
>
> "(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
>
> "(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
>
> "(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. An account of the Third Committee's consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbol A/64/439 and Add.1-4.

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Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 12 May 2009 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/64/81)

Letter dated 17 October 2008 from the representative of Myanmar to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/63/4)

Item 69 (a)
Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Committee against Torture on its forty-first and forty-second sessions[1]

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto (A/64/128 and Corr.1 and 2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/64/264)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/64/306 and Corr.1)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies (A/64/212)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/64/215 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies on their twenty-first meeting (A/64/276)

Item 69 (b)
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/64/160)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (A/64/171)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/64/175)

Report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/64/186)

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/64/188)

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/64/44).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 48* (A/64/48).

Report of the Secretary-General on combating defamation of religions (A/64/209)

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/64/216)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/64/219)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/64/256)

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/64/265)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Human Rights Learning (A/64/293)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (A/64/304)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/64/320)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (A/64/333)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/64/159)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/64/170)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (A/64/181)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/64/187)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/64/211 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/64/213 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons (A/64/214)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (A/64/226)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context (A/64/255)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/64/272)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/64/273)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty (A/64/279)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights (A/64/289 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/64/290)

Item 69 (c)
Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/64/319 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/64/334)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/64/357)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/64/224)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/64/318)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/64/328)

Letter dated 23 October 2009 from the representative of Myanmar to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/64/2)

Item 69 (d)
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[3]

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairperson

4. At its 47th meeting, on 24 November, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents considered in connection with the question of human rights (see para. 5).

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 36* (A/64/36).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

5. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following reports submitted under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights":

Under sub-item (a):

(a) Report of the Committee against Torture on its forty-first and forty-second sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;[3]

(d) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;[4]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies on their twenty-first meeting;[5]

Under sub-item (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity;[6]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants;[7]

(c) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises;[8]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;[9]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/64/44).
[2] A/64/264.
[3] A/64/306 and Corr.1.
[4] A/64/212.
[5] A/64/276.
[6] A/64/175.
[7] A/64/188.
[8] A/64/216.
[9] A/64/181.

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;[10]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;[11]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;[12]

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context;[13]

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;[14]

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education;[15]

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty;[16]

(l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; [17]

Under sub-item (d):

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.[18]

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[10] A/64/187.
[11] A/64/211 and Corr.1.
[12] A/64/213 and Corr.1.
[13] A/64/255.
[14] A/64/272.
[15] A/64/273.
[16] A/64/279.
[17] A/64/289 and Corr.1.
[18] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/64/36).